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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TO THE

## Hexham Urban District Council

FOR THE

Year Ended 31st December, 1940,

BY

DR. G. PATTON.

HEXHAM:
R. ROBSON & SONS, THE ABBEY PRESS, PRIESTPOPPLE.

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# MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TO THE

HEXHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

FOR THE

**YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1940.**

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
HEXHAM.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Hexham Urban District Council :—*

GENTLEMEN—

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health, for the year ending 31st December, 1940.

This report does not take the usual form, being condensed in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, and is mainly statistical.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
G. PATTON,
Medical Officer of Health.

## Sec. A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

| | |
|---|---|
| Area in Acres ... ... ... ... ... ... | 5,926 |
| Estimated Population, 1940 ... ... ... ... | 10,400 |
| Number of Inhabited Houses, end of 1940, according to Rate Book ... ... ... ... ... | 2,618 |
| Rateable Value and Sum Represented by a Penny Rate (£68,197) ... ... ... ... | £266 5s. 9d. |

## Social Conditions, including Industries carried on in the Area.

No large industries ; nothing affecting Public Health.

## Vital Statistics.

### Live Births.

| | Total | M. | F. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Legitimate | 127 | 58 | 69 |
| Illegitimate | 7 | 1 | 6 |

### Still Births.

| | Total | M. | F. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Legitimate | 5 | 3 | 2 |
| Illegitimate | — | — | — |

| | |
|---|---|
| Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated Population ... | 12.8 |
| Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births ... | 13.3 |

### Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

| | | Total Deaths | Rate per 1,000 (Live and Still) Births |
|---|---|---|---|
| No. 29. | Puer. and post-abort sepsis | Nil. | Nil. |
| No. 30. | Other maternal causes ... | 1 | 7.1 |
| | Total ... ... | 1 | 7.1 |

### Death Rate of Infants Under One Year of Age.

| | |
|---|---|
| All Infants per 1,000 Live Births ... ... ... | 43.4 |
| Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births | 47.2 |
| Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births ... ... ... ... ... ... | Nil |
| Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... ... ... | 21 |
| Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... ... ... | 1 |
| Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ... | Nil |
| Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ... | Nil |
| Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population... | 13.4 |

**DEATHS.—Age Groups in each Ward, also Adult, Infant and Uncertified Deaths.**

| Wards. | Gilesgate. | Leazes. | Priestpopple. | Hencotes. | Total. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Age Groups :— | | | | | | |
| 0—1 ... | 2 | — | 3 | 1 | 6 | |
| 1—2 ... | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | |
| 2—5 ... | — | — | — | — | — | |
| 5—15 ... | — | — | 1 | 1 | 2 | |
| 15—25 ... | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | |
| 25—45 ... | 2 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 13 | |
| 45—65 ... | 8 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 29 | |
| 65—75 ... | 8 | 16 | 16 | 12 | 52 | |
| Over 75 ... | 4 | 13 | 8 | 11 | 36 | |
| Totals all ages ... | 25 | 38 | 42 | 35 | 140 | |
| Uncert. M. ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | |
| F. ... | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | |
| Infant M. ... | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | 3 | 140 |
| F. ... | 1 | — | 2 | — | 3 | |
| Adult. M. ... | 13 | 16 | 18 | 21 | 68 | |
| F. ... | 10 | 22 | 21 | 13 | 66 | |

The chief causes of Death are set out in the following tables :—

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | M. | F. |
|---|---|---|
| Typhoid and Parat. Fevers ... ... ... ... | — | — |
| Cerebro-spinal Fever ... ... ... ... ... | 2 | — |
| Scarlet Fever ... ... ... ... ... ... | — | — |
| Whooping Cough ... ... ... ... ... | — | — |
| Diphtheria ... ... ... ... ... ... | — | — |
| Tub. of resp. system ... ... ... ... ... | 4 | 2 |
| Other forms of Tuberculosis ... ... ... ... | — | — |
| Syphilitic Diseases ... ... ... ... ... | 1 | — |
| Influenza ... ... ... ... ... ... | — | — |
| Measles ... ... ... ... ... ... | — | 1 |
| Ac. polio-myel. and polio-enceph ... ... ... | — | — |
| Ac. inf. enceph ... ... ... ... ... | — | — |
| Cancer of b. cav. and oesoph (M) uterus (F) ... | 2 | 2 |
| Cancer of stomach and duodenum ... ... ... | 1 | — |
| Cancer of breast ... ... ... ... ... | — | 1 |
| Cancer of all other sites ... ... ... ... | 6 | 9 |
| Diabetes ... ... ... ... ... ... | 2 | 2 |
| Intra-cran. vasc. lesions ... ... ... ... | 9 | 7 |
| Heart disease ... ... ... ... ... ... | 13 | 11 |
| Other dis. of circ. system ... ... ... ... | 1 | 2 |
| Bronchitis ... ... ... ... ... ... | 5 | 5 |
| Pneumonia ... ... ... ... ... ... | 1 | 4 |
| Other resp. dis. ... ... ... ... ... ... | 1 | — |
| Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ... ... ... | — | — |
| Diarrhoea under 2 years ... ... ... ... | — | — |
| Appendicitis ... ... ... ... ... ... | — | 1 |
| Other digestive dis. ... ... ... ... ... | — | 1 |
| Nephritis ... ... ... ... ... ... | 7 | 6 |
| Puer. and post-abort. sepsis ... ... ... ... | — | — |
| Other maternal causes ... ... ... ... | — | 1 |
| Premature birth ... ... ... ... ... | 1 | — |
| Con. mal. birth inj. infant dis. ... ... ... | 1 | — |
| Suicide ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | — | 1 |
| Road Traffic Accident ... ... ... ... | 1 | — |
| Other violent causes ... ... ... ... ... | 2 | — |
| All other causes ... ... ... ... ... | 11 | 13 |
| | 71 | 69 |
| TOTAL ... ... | 140 | |

Infant Mortality.—There were 6 deaths of infants under one year of age as compared with 4 in 1939. The Infant Mortality Rate is 43.4 per thousand births compared with 36.6 for 1939.

## Birth-Rate, Death-Rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1940.

| | Rate per 1,000 total Population | | Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population | | | | | | | | | Rate per 1,000 Live Births | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Live Births | Still Births | All Causes | Typhoid & Para-Typhoid fevers | Small-pox | Measles | Scarlet Fever | Whooping Cough | Diphtheria | Influenza | | Diarrhoea & Enteritis (under 2 years) | Total Deaths under one year |
| England and Wales ... | 14·6 | 0·55 | 14·3 | 0·00 | — | 0·02 | 0·00 | 0·02 | 0·06 | 0·32 | | 4·6 | 55 |
| 126 County Boroughs & Great Towns, including London ... | 16·0 | 0·64 | 15·8 | 0·00 | — | 0·02 | 0·00 | 0·02 | 0·07 | 0·29 | | 5·9 | 61 |
| 148 Smaller Towns (estimated Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at Census 1931) | 15·7 | 0·55 | 12·8 | 0·00 | — | 0·02 | 0·00 | 0·02 | 0·05 | 0·30 | | 4·4 | 54 |
| London ... ... | 13·7 | 0·44 | 17·8 | 0·00 | — | 0·01 | 0·00 | 0·00 | 0·01 | 0·18 | | 5·8 | 50 |
| **Hexham U.D.** ... | 12·8 | 0·48 | 13·4 | — | — | 0·09 | — | — | — | — | | — | 43 |

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1940.

| Notifiable Disease. | At all Ages. | Under 1. | 1 to 2. | 2 to 5. | 5 to 15. | 15 to 25. | 25 to 45. | 45 to 65. | 65 & upward | Cases admitted to Hospital. | Total Deaths. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Smallpox ... ... ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Scarlet Fever ... ... | 11 | — | — | 2 | 7 | — | 2 | — | — | 5 | — |
| Diphtheria ... ... ... | 10 | — | — | — | 9 | — | 1 | — | — | 10 | — |
| Enteric Fever ... ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Puerperal Pyrexia ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Pneumonia ... ... | 10 | — | — | 4 | — | 2 | 3 | — | 1 | — | 5 |
| Cerebro-Spinal Fever ... | 12 | — | — | 1 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 | — | 10 | 2 |
| Erysipelas ... ... ... | 4 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 3 | — | — | — |
| Measles ... ... ... | 212 | 3 | 19 | 68 | 117 | — | 5 | — | — | — | 1 |
| Whooping Cough ... ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum... | 2 | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Totals ... ... | 261 | 5 | 19 | 75 | 136 | 5 | 14 | 6 | 1 | 25 | 8 |

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—There were 2 cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum during the year under review.

TUBERCULOSIS.—New cases and Mortality during 1940:—

| Age periods. | New Cases | | | | Nett Deaths in Hexham Urban District | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Pulmonary | | Non Pulm | | Pulmonary | | Non Pulm | |
| | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F |
| 0—1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1—5 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 5—15 | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| 15—25 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 25—35 | 1 | 2 | 1 | — | 1 | 2 | — | — |
| 35—45 | 2 | — | — | — | 2 | — | — | — |
| 45—55 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| 55—65 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 65 & over | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Totals | 3 | 3 | 2 | — | 4 | 2 | — | — |

| | Cases Notified. | Deaths. |
|---|---|---|
| Gilesgate Ward ... | 4 | 1 |
| Leazes Ward ... ... | 1 | 1 |
| Priestpopple Ward ... | 1 | 2 |
| Hencotes Ward ... | 2 | 2 |
| | 8 | 6 |

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Does not differ in essentials from the report of the previous year.

### Diphtheria Immunisation, 1940.

| | Total number of Children Immunised | Pre-School Children | School Children |
|---|---|---|---|
| Diphtheria Immunisation | 190 | 17 | 173 |

# SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

## VISITS AND INSPECTIONS.

| | |
|---|---|
| Bakehouse inspections | 14 |
| Common Lodging Houses | 18 |
| Choked Drains | 42 |
| Disinfection at Schools | 6 |
| Disinfestation of Rats | 29 |
| Evacuation visits | 11 |
| Farms Inspections | 35 |
| Factories and Workplaces | 30 |
| Filthy Houses | 2 |
| Housing Inspections | 30 |
| Housing Re-Visits | 69 |
| House-to-House Inspections | 77 |
| House-to-house Re-visits | 105 |
| Houses measured | 5 |
| Infectious Disease visits | 44 |
| Infectious Disease Re-visits | 60 |
| Knackers' Yard | 22 |
| Markets and Marts | 61 |
| Milk Shops, Dairies, etc. | 37 |
| Military Billets Inspections | 87 |
| New drainage visits | 21 |
| ,, ,, Re-visits | 54 |
| Overcrowding Re-visits | 68 |
| Public Health Visits | 86 |
| Public Health Re-visits | 97 |
| Reconstructed drainage visits | 10 |
| ,, ,, Re-visits | 25 |
| Slaughter House | 500 |
| Shops, Foodstores, etc. | 238 |
| Smoke Abatement | 1 |
| Stables | 10 |
| Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc. | 60 |
| Visits to Travelling Shows | 7 |
| Various nuisance visits | 19 |
| Verminous Houses and Re-visits | 9 |
| Water Supply (not housing) | 9 |
| Total | 1,998 |

## SUMMARY OF WORK EFFECTED, 1940.

| | Hexham Urban District. Inspector—H. Mitchell. | After Letter or Interview | After Informal Notice | After Statutory Notice | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sanitary Conveniences | Privies abolished... ... ... | — | — | — | — |
| | ,, repaired ... ... ... | — | — | — | — |
| | Privy ashpits abolished ... ... | — | — | — | — |
| | ,, ,, roofed or repaired | — | — | — | — |
| | Pail-closets abolished ... ... | 3 | — | — | 3 |
| | Water closets provided ... ... | 8 | 3 | — | 11 |
| | ,, ,, repaired ... ... | — | 27 | — | 27 |
| | Sanitary bins provided ... | — | 5 | — | 5 |
| | ,, ,, renewed ... ... | — | 3 | — | 3 |
| Drainage | New drains constructed ... | 20 | 1 | — | 21 |
| | Drains repaired or constructed ... | 10 | 1 | — | 11 |
| | Additional gullies provided ... | 18 | 2 | — | 20 |
| | Old gullies replaced ... ... | 3 | — | — | 3 |
| | Scullery sinks provided ... ... | 1 | 1 | — | 2 |
| | ,, waste pipes repaired ... | 3 | — | — | 3 |
| | ,, ,, trapped ... | 2 | — | — | 2 |
| | Yards repaired or reconstructed | — | 12 | — | 12 |
| Water supply | Sources closed or discontinued — No. of houses affected — | | | | |
| | New service provided ... 15 ,, ,, ,, 3 | | | | |

| Rivers Pollution— | | Particulars— | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cases detected ... | — | ,, | ... ... | — |
| Remedied ... ... | — | ,, | ... ... | — |
| S.D. Works provided | Nil. | ,, | ... ... | — |

## D.—HOUSING.

### HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR 1940.

| | With State Assistance. | Unaided | Total. |
|---|---|---|---|
| (*a*) By Local Authority ... ... | — | — | — |
| (*b*) By other Bodies or Persons ... | — | 5 | 5 |

FOOD INSPECTION, 1940.

| UNSOUND FOOD. | Surrendered | | Seized | Legal Pro-ceedings |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | stones | lbs. | | |
| Beef (home-killed) ... ... | 2567 | 6½ | ... | ... |
| ,, (Imported) ... ... | 15 | 6 | ... | ... |
| Mutton (home-killed) ... ... | 306 | 12 | ... | ... |
| ,, (Imported) ... ... | 8 | 3 | ... | ... |
| Pork ... ... ... | 252 | 1 | ... | ... |
| Bacon ... ... ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Fruit... ... ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Other Foods : ... ... ... | 24 | 12 | ... | ... |
| TOTAL ... | 3174 | 12½ | | |

URBAN DISTRICT OF HEXHAM, 1940.

## Inspection of Factories, Workshops & Workplaces,

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

| Premises (1) | Number of | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Inspections. (2) | Written Notices. (3) | Occupiers Prosecuted. (4) |
| Factories (including Laundries) ... | 22 | 6 | ... |
| Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises) | 8 | 2 | ... |
| Total ... ... | 30 | 8 | ... |

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

| Particulars. (1) | No. of Defects. Found. (2) | Remedied. (3) | Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4) | Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted (5) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Want of cleanliness (S.1) ... ... | 3 | 3 | ... | ... |
| Overcrowding (S.2) ... ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) — insufficient ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) — unsuitable, defective | 2 | 1 | ... | ... |
| Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) — not separate for sexes | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Other offences ... ... ... (Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937). | 7 | 7 | ... | ... |
| Total ... ... | 12 | 11 | ... | ... |

## SHOPS ACT, 1934.

Sanitary Conveniences Provided ... ... ... 1

## FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Registration for Sale of Ice Cream ... ... ... 3

Transfer of Registration ... ... ... ... ... 1

## MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1926.

**Section 6 (1) and (4).**

Number of Cowkeepers (registered) in district ... 26

Approximate number of cows kept ... ... ... 450

## THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936.

| | |
|---|---|
| Supplementary Licences Granted (Pasteurised Milk)... | 3 |

## MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1926.

| | |
|---|---|
| Registration of Retail Purveyors during Year ... | Nil |
| Registration of Dairies during Year ... ... ... | Nil |

## SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

| | |
|---|---|
| Renewals of Licence to Slaughter ... ... ... | 23 |
| New Licences Granted ... ... ... ... ... | 2 |

## DISINFECTION.

| | |
|---|---|
| Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ... ... ... ... ... ... | 12 |
| Cases of Scarlet Fever ... ... ... ... ... ... | 11 |
| ,, ,, Tuberculosis ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 1 |
| ,, ,, Cancer ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 1 |
| ,, ,, Diphtheria ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 10 |
| ,, ,, Erysipelas ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 3 |
| ,, ,, Chicken Pox ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 6 |
| School Rooms and Outbuildings, etc. ... ... ... ... | 4 |
| Library Books destroyed (bundles) ... ... ... ... ... | 2 |
| Other Rooms and Outbuildings, etc. ... ... ... ... | — |
| Small Articles disinfected ... ... ... ... ... ... | 20 |
| Mattresses and Eiderdowns ... ... ... ... ... ... | 2 |
| Pillows ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 9 |
| Blankets ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 23 |
| Bedding destroyed (lots) ... ... ... ... ... ... | 6 |
| Other bedding, beds, etc., when required ... ... ... ... | 2 |
| Vehicles ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 5 |